

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows without prejudice.

Page 7

Tool 35 is shown as planar and having a rectangular cross-section sized to have a larger lateral width than that of frame 13, though tool 35 can also be tapered when necessary for the desired shape. The oversize width, preferably 0.002" to 0.120" wider than frame 13, provides for a gap or clearance between frame 13 and inner surfaces 23 of legs 21 when frame 13 is inserted into clevis 20. Tool 35 is coated with Teflon on surfaces 37, 39 to ensure a minimum of force is necessary to remove tool 35 after curing of preform 11. Surfaces 37, 39 contact peel ply 33 and shape the volume between legs 21. Semi-rigid over-presses 41 are used to distribute force applied to over-presses 41 across the width and height of preform 11, surfaces 43, 45 being in contact with over-wrap plies 31. Each over-press 41 is generally triangular in cross-section. ~~Inner surfaces 43, 45 are perpendicular to each other, and the outer side is slightly concave. The~~ distribution of force causes more consistent bonding at the interface of skin 15 and preform 11 and a more consistent shaping of clevis 20 to the shape of tool 35.